

Office of Teaching & Learning Support *presents...*

Common Core Implementation Team (CCIT)



The Blast!

Dear Colleagues,

April is National Poetry Month and this Blast offers lesson ideas on reading and writing poetry in the classroom. But there's more to "spring" on you! We're also sharing news about current division initiatives designed to support your work around curriculum and collaboration.

We start with a division highlight of the **NJ Italian Heritage Commission (NJIHC)**. Working with NJDOE and Rutgers University, the NJIHC offers a free online curriculum of K-12 lesson plans designed for teachers of Italian, social studies, language arts, and mathematics. Visit their [website](#) to access the curriculum, monthly newsletters, and events calendar.

The division's newest support for educators is the **Advisory Council for Teaching and Learning**. The council will meet quarterly and work with division professionals, providing input on NJDOE initiatives. We invite all educators to [apply online](#) for membership and share this news with colleagues.

Lastly, we are offering another round of regional sessions to share information and insights about PARCC results. Inside the Blast, you'll find the description, dates, and locations for **PARCC Data: Conversations That Drive the Cycle of Teaching and Learning**. For each morning and afternoon session, you will also see the online registration links.

As we approach the spring 2016 administration of PARCC, my team and I thank you for your careful planning and preparation of students for the tests. We thank you also for your engagement in statewide collegial conversations between the Department and districts. These exchanges focus us on teaching and learning practices which help students realize their postsecondary goals.

Kimberley Harrington,
Chief Academic Officer
Division of Teaching and Learning



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Division Highlight: NJIHC ([top](#))

This month, the Blast highlights the [New Jersey Italian Heritage Commission \(NJIHC\)](#), a curriculum partner within the division, led by Chairman Robert DiBiase and Manager Nicholas Schaefer.

Founded by [legislative mandate](#) in 2002, the Commission's mission is "to strengthen the cultural identity of Italians and Italian Americans through public educational programs." The programs are designed to promote an accurate, bias-free and non-stereotyped understanding of historical and current contributions of those of Italian heritage. Included in the many program offerings are forums, seminars, publications and exchanges for schools and private and public sector audiences throughout NJ. The focus is on accomplishments by Italians and Italian-Americans which have improved the quality of life across the sciences, jurisprudence, the fine and performing arts, technology, medicine, literature, and philosophy, as well as trade and commerce.

For NJ educators and students, the Commission's Curriculum Development Committee has created the [Universality of Italian Heritage Curriculum](#), a free online resource comprising lesson plans designed for K-12 teachers of Italian, social studies, language arts, and mathematics. The elementary, middle and secondary lessons were developed in consultation with the Department and align with the NJ academic standards.

To learn more about NJIHC projects, visit their [website](#). Be the first to know about the Commission's activities and upcoming Italian cultural events throughout New Jersey by subscribing to receive the free [NJ Italian Newsletter](#).



NJ Italian Heritage Commission



Division News: *NEW* Advisory Council for Teaching and Learning ([top](#))

NEW! The division invites NJ educators to apply for membership on a newly formed **Advisory Council for Teaching and Learning**. Educators will work with division professionals to advise on programs, delivery of professional learning and policy decisions. Eligible applicants include: K-12 teachers, content area teachers, leaders of English language learner support programs, gifted/enrichment educational program leaders, teachers who support special learners, library media specialists, guidance counselors, instructors within the arts, health and wellness, trade preparation programs, principals, vice principals, supervisors, and directors. **Applications** for the Advisory Council for Teaching and Learning can be found [here](#) and are due on **May 2, 2016**.



NJ Standards Review Update ([top](#))

On March 8, the last of three public hearings was held to allow for stakeholder comments on [proposed revisions](#) to New Jersey's ELA and mathematics standards. The testimony gathered from all hearings will be considered for incorporation into a final presentation by Kimberley Harrington and her team at the May 4 meeting of the NJ State Board of Education in Trenton.



NJCORE Update ([top](#))

Have you NJCORE'd today?! Resources for your classroom and professional learning are ready to be accessed at [NJCORE](#). Register as a user, [upload](#) your favorite resources, and add your ratings to help others find what they need. Don't forget to look for the [Blended Online Learning Modules](#) in the Professional Learning toolkit on the homepage.

**Resources for NJ Academic Standards**

Be sure to visit [NJ CORE](#) for these and other newly uploaded resources!

**ELA and Mathematics (top):****National Poetry Month and Classroom Resources**

April is [National Poetry Month](#) and the Academy of American Poets offers several ideas, as well as lesson plans, for celebrating in the classroom. According to the website, most of the site's elementary and secondary [lesson plans](#) are aligned to the ELA standards, and all have been reviewed by their [Educator in Residence](#) "with an eye toward developing skills of perception and imagination."

MATHCOUNTS Foundation Resources

The [MATHCOUNTS Foundation](#) offers an array of mathematics resources, especially for middle school students and teachers. The site includes a [Problem of the Week](#), as well as [MATHCOUNTS Minis](#) which provide detailed explanations for at least one problem and associated concepts. Most offerings are free to access or request a user to sign in with a password.

**Science, Technology, Engineering & Math (STEM) (top)****2017 Governor's STEM Scholars Program**

In a recent [Broadcast memo](#), Kimberley Harrington announced that applications for the 2017 Class of Governor's STEM Scholars are now being accepted. The program, a public-private partnership for students interested in STEM from grade 10 to the doctorate level, gives participants a comprehensive introduction to the state's STEM economy through a series of conferences, field trips, internships and a research project. [Applications](#) are due **May 27, 2016**.

Teaching Tools for STEM Website

This [STEM Teaching Tools website](#) has been set up to provide tools for teaching STEM subjects, with a focus on the Next Generation Science Standards. Visitors can access archived articles on the site, as well as sign up for the free ["Field Notes" monthly newsletter](#).

NJDOE Digital Learning Glossary of Terms

Under "Resources" on the NJDOE Educational Technology webpage, find the [Digital Learning Glossary of Terms](#). Commonly used terms from A to Z are defined, with sources for definitions listed at the end.

NJDOE High School Model Science Curricula

The [Model Science Curricula](#) for high school chemistry, biology, and physics are now available at the NJDOE website below. K-5 course outlines and a limited number of K-5 units are also available. All K-5 model science units will be posted by June 30, 2016.

NGSS March 2016 NOW Newsletter

Look on the Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS) [website](#) for the current [NOW newsletter](#). On Page 2 of the March issue, find an article about students at the Lazar Middle School in Montville, NJ, who are studying "Colony Collapse Disorder" which has impacted honeybee populations.





Social Studies ([top](#))

NJ Amistad Commission 2016 Summer Institutes

The free [2016 Amistad Summer Curriculum Institutes](#) for Teacher Development will be held in northern and southern NJ locations in July and August. More information will follow shortly with final details.

Students Create 2016 Online Voter Guide

With the help of their advanced-placement U.S. government and politics teacher, Ransom Everglades High School students created an online voter guide. Read an [article](#) about the learning experience and visit the online [voter guide](#) to track a candidate's progress in the 2016 campaign.



Hamilton Resources for the Classroom

The [Gilder Lehrman Institute](#) of American History is a nonprofit organization devoted to improving history education. On their website, teachers will find free online resources on [Alexander Hamilton](#), inspired by interest in the current Broadway musical. The resources include primary sources, videos and essays to guide classroom discussions.



Bilingual/ESL Education ([top](#))

Broadcast Memo on Support for ELLs

This [Broadcast memo](#) addresses program support for English language learners (ELLs) while state assessments are being administered. Instructions review support to be given to students during ACCESS 2.0 and/or PARCC testing.



PARTNERSHIP FOR ASSESSMENT OF READINESS FOR
COLLEGE AND CAREERS ([top](#))

Coming Soon! PARCC Data: Conversations That Drive the Cycle of Teaching and Learning

In May and June, the division is presenting 12 regional sessions on **PARCC Data: Conversations That Drive the Cycle of Teaching and Learning**. The workshops will build on the earlier "Conversations Around PARCC" and engage participants in reviewing their respective PARCC student data, discussing how the Evidence Statements Reports can be used in districts, and highlighting tools for communicating with parents and other stakeholders. Register online for a session below:

Rowan College at Gloucester County:

[May 12](#): 8:30am-11:30am OR [May 12](#): 12:30pm-3:30pm
[May 25](#): 8:30am-11:30am OR [May 25](#): 12:30pm-3:30pm

Morris County Public Safety Training Academy:

[May 20](#): 8:30am-11:30am OR [May 20](#): 12:30pm-3:30pm
[May 27](#): 8:30am-11:30am OR [May 27](#): 12:30pm-3:30pm

NJDOE Learning Resource Center in Trenton:

[June 9](#): 9:00am-12:00noon OR [June 9](#): 1:00pm-4:00pm
[June 16](#): 9:00am-12:00noon OR [June 16](#): 1:00pm-4:00pm



2015 PARCC and Other State Assessment Results

The Department has posted the results from PARCC and other 2015 state assessments. See the website to access [PARCC results](#), as well as [NJASK4](#), [NJASK8](#), the [NJ Biology Competency Test](#) and the [Alternative Proficiency Assessment](#) results.

NJDOE PowerPoint on PARCC Accommodations

The NJDOE Office of Special Education Programs and Office of Assessment created an online PowerPoint focused on [PARCC Accommodations and Accessibility Features](#). The presentation provides educators and parents with guidance and information on the selection and use of accommodations and accessibility features for the PARCC assessment.

Broadcast Memo on PARCC Portfolio Appeals

This Broadcast memo provides details on the [PARCC Portfolio Appeals process](#) which districts follow for students who have not successfully completed graduation requirements through standard state assessments. The time period for submitting appeals extends through **Friday, May 13**.

NJDOE Assessments Webpage

Visit this NJDOE [webpage](#) for the District Toolkits of Resources to communicate with parents about PARCC.

**[FREE Professional Learning \(top\)](#)****NJDOE Science Workshops for 2016**

A series of regional professional development sessions are scheduled to support teachers as they translate Model Science Curriculum units into local curriculum. Visit the [Calendar of Events](#) to register for appropriate sessions.

April 30 EdCamp Garden State in Collingswood

This Saturday, April 30 conference at Collingswood High School in Collingswood, NJ, is an Edcamp Garden State event. The agenda will be created by the participants and focus on issues related to K-12 teaching and learning. See the [flyer](#) to register.

**[FREE Webinars and MOOCs](#)****Free National Archives Webinar Series**

This NJDOE Broadcast memo lists dates of free [National Archives Webinars](#) for April and May.

ASCD Webinars for April

Check for free upcoming and archived webinars on the [ASCD website](#).

**[Further Reading \(top\)](#)****National Survey on Teachers and Technology**

This article describes results of a [Teachers and Technology Survey](#), conducted in January and February 2016, which polled 1,000 teachers across the country on their use of classroom technology. The findings show an increase in the adoption of open educational resources (OER), with 73 percent of teachers reporting they use open resources more often than textbooks.

**NJDOE's New ESSA Website and Updates**

This March 29 [Broadcast memo](#) provides information about the implementation timeline for the *Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA)*, as well as short-term implications for districts in the 2016-2017 school year. The memo also introduces the Department's new [ESSA website](#) with more information and resources.

NJDOE's NJ Educator Connection

The *NJ Educator Connection* is the NJDOE newsletter for teachers covering timely and relevant information. Subscribe to receive the newsletter by e-mail, and find archived and current issues at the [website](#).

**[YOU are the Resource! \(top\)](#)****Samsung's Solve for Tomorrow Contest**

Samsung invites schools to enter the [Solve for Tomorrow](#) challenge to raise interest in STEM through possible award share of up to \$2 million in technology products. The contest ends **May 1, 2016**.

ASCD Education Leadership (EL) Journal

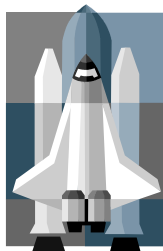
Editors are seeking manuscripts for the [October 2016 issue](#) of Education Leadership with a theme of “*Powerful Lesson Planning*.” Teachers are invited to submit articles on lesson approaches which strike a balance between planning required content and also following students’ questions and interests. Deadline is **May 2, 2016**.

**Grants & Opportunities for Teachers and Students [\(top\)](#)****DonorsChoose.org Website for Classroom Needs**

The [DonorsChoose.org website](#) was started by a Bronx Public High School teacher to allow public school teachers an online opportunity to seek funds for a special project or classroom need. Follow the instructions for completing a [request](#) or reviewing [others’ requests](#) for donations. All proposed projects are reviewed and vetted by the website staff. Once a project is completely funded, they purchase and ship the materials requested to the school.

ARISS 2017 Contact Opportunity for Students

The Amateur Radio on the International Space Station (ARISS) and U.S. partners will open a window for proposals from formal and informal educational institutions and organizations in the U.S. seeking to host an Amateur Radio contact with a crew member on board the ISS during 2017. For proposal information and more details go to the [website](#). The proposal window ends on **April 15, 2016**

***Before you go...***

How else can we help you? [Contact](#) us!



Know someone who needs The Blast? Send them to our [Blast sign-up page!](#)



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is on [Facebook!](#)

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See you in May!

